MARCH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1968

THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MARCH

Public Health, Housing and Plans Committee

Chairman:-	H. A. Orbell, Esq.
Alderman:-	T. H. Ellingham, O.B.E.
Councillors:-	G. A. J. Campbell
	F. A. Clark
	Mrs. D. Fleming
	A. J. Goss
	P. M. Skoulding

Medical Officer of Health

J. C. Burns, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.,
Town Hall, March. Telephone: March 2331

Public Health Inspector

H. Burton, M.A.P.H.I.

THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MARCH

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1968

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my report for the year 1968 together with a report from the Public Health Inspector.

I wish to record my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health, Housing and Plans Committee for their interest and support and to my colleagues on the Council's staff for their assistance and co-operation.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. C. BURNS

Medical Officer of Health.

General Statistics

Area in acres	19,786
Population (Registrar General's mid-year estimate for 1968)	13,800
Number of inhabited houses	5,056
Number of dwellings owned by the Council	1,061
Rateable Value (at 1st April, 1969)	£509,090
Amount represented by estimated 1d. rate 1968/69	£2,035

The area of the Urban District remained unchanged at 19,786 acres and the estimated population increased by 390 to 13,800. Whilst the main forms of employment remain much the same as in former years it is noticeable that some useful changes are taking place. On the agricultural side mechanical equipment continues to expand and the allied undertakings associated with the preparation and packaging of vegetables has increased. In the industrial sphere useful additions have been established amongst which may be noted concrete pipe making, bag making, bed covering materials and metalwork.

Vital Statistics

Live Births

Number	(Male 109)	Total	230
	(Female 121)		
Rate per 1,000 population			16.67

Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total live births 5.65

Stillbirths

Number	(Male 2)	Total	5
	(Female 3)		
Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths			21.28

Total Live and Stillbirths

(Male 111)	Total	235
(Female 124)		

Infant Deaths (deaths under 1 year)

(Male 1)	Total	4
(Female 3)		

Infant Mortality Rates

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births 17.39

Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births .. 17.39

Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births NIL

Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births) 13.04

Early neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births) 13.04

Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths) 34.04

Maternal Mortality (including abortion)

Number of deaths .. .. NIL

Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths .. .. NIL

Death rate per 1,000 population 13.11

Cause of death	Male	Female	Total
Syphilis and its sequelae	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm - stomach	1	1	2
Malignant neoplasm - lung, bronchus	9	1	10
Malignant neoplasm - breast	-	9	9
Malignant neoplasm - uterus	-	1	1
Other malignant neoplasms etc.	15	7	22
Diabetes Mellitus	-	1	1
Other endocrine etc. diseases	1	1	2
Anaemias	1	1	2
Other diseases of blood etc.	-	1	1
Other diseases of nervous system etc.	-	1	1
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	-	1	1
Hypertensive disease	1	3	4
Ischaemic heart disease	27	19	46
Other forms of heart disease	9	9	18
Cerebrovascular disease	13	12	25
Other diseases of circulatory system	1	-	1
Pneumonia	5	6	11
Bronchitis and emphysema	1	-	1
Peptic ulcer	-	1	1
Intestinal obstruction and hernia	-	4	4
Nephritis and nephrosis	-	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	-	2
Diseases of musculo skeletal system	-	1	1
Congenital anomalies	2	2	4
Birth injury, difficult labour etc.	-	1	1
Symptoms and ill-defined conditions	3	1	4
All other accidents	1	1	2
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	1	1	2
	94	87	181

The following table gives the percentage of deaths in the principal age groups:

Under 1 year	2.21
1 - 4 years	1.66
5 - 14 years	1.11
15 - 64 years	22.09
65 and over	72.93
	100.00

Prevalence and Control of Infectious Diseases

The following infectious diseases were notified during the year:-

Measles	165
Whooping cough	5
Scarlet fever	5
Dysentery	4
Acute pneumonia	3
Infective jaundice	1
Tuberculosis	4
	187

Food Hygiene

This demands constant vigilance and receives the necessary attention throughout the year. Details of visits and action taken are given later in the report.

Food Poisoning

No cases of food poisoning were reported during 1968.

National Assistance Act

One elderly lady was removed to Clarkson Hospital, Wisbech, during July and was still there at the end of the year.

Factories Act, 1961

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1968 FOR THE URBAN DISTRICT
COUNCIL OF MARCH IN THE COUNTY OF CAMBRIDGESHIRE
AND ISLE OF ELY
Prescribed Particulars on the Administration
of the Factories Act, 1961

PART I OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2, 3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities				
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	44	18		
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	2			
	46	18		

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found
(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases".)

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)					
Overcrowding (S.2)					
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)					
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)					
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)					
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) (a) Insufficient					
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2			
(c) Not separate for sexes					
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)					
TOTAL	2	2			

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORK
(Sections 133 and 134)

Nature of work	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 133(1)(c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Wearing apparel: Making etc.						
Wearing apparel: Cleaning and washing						
Household linen						
Lace, lace curtains and nets						
Curtains and furniture hangings						
Furniture and upholstery						
Electro-plate						
File making						
Brass and brass articles						
Fur pulling						
Iron and steel cables and chains						
Iron and steel anchors and grapnels						
Cart gear						
Locks, latches and keys						
Umbrellas, etc.						
Artificial flowers						
Nets, other than wire nets						
Tents						
Sacks	50					
Racquet and tennis balls						
Paper bags						
C/fwd.	50					

PART VIII OF THE ACT (CONTD.)

OUTWORK
(Sections 133 and 134)

Nature of work	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 133(1)(c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
B/fwd.	50					
The making of boxes or other receptacles or parts thereof made wholly or partially of paper						
Brush making						
Pea picking						
Feather sorting						
Carding etc. of buttons etc.						
Stuffed toys						
Basket making						
Chocolate and sweetmeats						
Cosaques, Christmas stockings etc.						
Textile weaving						
Lampshades						
TOTAL	50	-	-	-	-	-

THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MARCH

Public Health Inspector's Report for the year 1968

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The following are details of visits, interviews, inspections and re-inspections carried out in 1968:-

Public Health Act Nuisances) Housing Act Disrepair	174
Accumulation	31
Animals or birds	10
Ashes accommodation	2
Bakehouses	7
Cesspools	6
Flooding	8
Petrol	29
Clean Air Act	6
Noise	12
Drainage	64
Food Hygiene	28
Food Prep. Premises	7
Fish Shops and stalls	22
Factories	18
General Food Premises	11
Ice Cream Premises	11
Infectious Diseases	23
Interviews	201
Cold Store	20
Market Inspections	69
Knackers Yards	26
Launderettes	8
Food Vans	10
Milkshops and Dairies	2
Meat shops	4
Miscellaneous	41
Overcrowding	2
Pet Animals Act	14
Piggeries	5
Poultry Premises	32
Sanitary accommodation	12
Shops Act	57
Slaughterhouses	642
Tents, vans and sheds	7
Vermin	24
Rats and mice (including sewers)	145
Water supplies	4
Swimming Pool	27
Scrap Metal	6
	1,827

The following tables show defects found and remedied during the year by action under the various Acts.

	Defects found	Defects remedied
Sanitary Accommodation and Drains		
Defective sanitary accommodation	5	5
Blocked drains	4	4
Overflowing cesspool	3	3
Infestations		
Rats and mice (including visits by Rodent Operator)	89	89
Ants etc.	8	8
C/fwd.	109	109

	Defects found	Defects remedied
Factories Act B/fwd.	109	109
Defective sanitary accommodation	2	2
Housing Defects		
Defective window	2	2
" walls	4	4
" roofs	6	5
" floor	4	3
" gutter	3	3
" ceiling	2	2
" fireplace	1	1
Food Hygiene		
Smoking in food premises	1	1
Clothing accommodation	1	1
Cleanliness	3	3
Mobile Vans	3	3
Stalls	1	1
Accumulations	8	7
Noise Abatement Act	1	1
	151	148

Tables of Notices served during 1968

		Served during 1968	Complied with by 31/12/68
Public Health and Housing Acts	Verbal	34	32
	Letter	5	5
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949	Verbal	89	89
Food Hygiene Regulations, 1960	Verbal	6	5
Factories Act, 1961	Verbal	2	2
Stalls and Vans	Verbal	2	2
	Letter	1	1
Noise Abatement Act	Verbal	1	1
		140	137

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

Under the above Act 196 premises are registered and 58 inspections were made during the year. The following were provided or remedied during 1968:

Handrail	1
Hot water	5
Decoration	3
Heating	1
Clothing accommodation	1

HOUSING

It is interesting to note that during 1968 the Council made 2 Demolition Orders and 2 Closing Orders. 12 houses were actually demolished which included some from Demolition Orders made during 1967. 3 families were rehoused by the Council and one family rehoused themselves.

No applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received during 1968.

DRAINAGE

Consultants have been employed and have commenced survey work on areas not yet sewered. Their report is awaited with interest.

WATER SUPPLIES

The following is the information requested by the Ministry:-

(a) whether the water supply of the area and of its several parts has been satisfactory in quality and in quantity;

Yes.

(b) where there is a piped supply, whether bacteriological examinations were made of the raw water and where treatment is installed, of the water going into supply; if so, how many and the results obtained; and the results of any chemical analyses; information on the fluoride content of the various supplies should be included wherever possible;

The following is the report of the Chemist and Bacteriologist of the Wisbech and District Water Board:-

"Frequent bacteriological examinations have been undertaken during 1968 on samples from the Board's source-works and the distribution system in this area. The results have been of a very high standard. Many chemical analyses have also been carried out.

All new mains were sterilised, samples taken and bacteriological examinations made before the mains were put into service. No connections were permitted until the water in the mains was of the highest standard of purity.

A sample taken on the 31st December, 1968, from the 18" main at Marham Pumping Station (Marham mixed treated water) on which a fluoride estimation was carried out, had a fluoride content of 0.02 parts per million (as F).

There were no cases of contamination of the water supply in March Urban District during 1968.

BACTERIOLOGICAL SAMPLES TAKEN IN THE MARCH URBAN DISTRICT

Total Tests Taken	No. of Tests Negative	No. of Tests Positive	% Negative Tests
54	54	—	100% "

(c) where the waters are liable to have plumbo-solvent action, the facts as to contamination by lead, including the precautions taken and the number and result of analyses;

The water is hard and has no plumbo-solvent action.

(d) the action taken in respect of any form of contamination;

There has been no evidence of contamination during the year.

/(e)

WATER SUPPLIES (CONTD.)

(e) the number of dwelling houses and the number of the population supplied from public water mains (i) direct to the houses, and (ii) by means of stand-pipes.

(i) direct to houses - 96%
(ii) by means of stand-pipes - 1.0%

CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960

There is one licensed site in the area for nine caravans and a further five licences are operative in respect of seven caravans.

SWIMMING POOL

A new open air heated swimming pool (110' x 42') was opened in May, 1965 and in addition to the daily checks carried out by the staff 17 samples were taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at Cambridge. Two were not satisfactory but follow up samples proved satisfactory. The water is chlorinated there being a six hour turnover.

There are three schools with swimming pools and three samples at monthly intervals were taken from each school, all samples being satisfactory.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

At present two premises are registered under the above Act and these are subject to inspection by the R.S.P.C.A. and myself.

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

During 1968 two applications were approved under the above Act.

RATS AND MICE

The refuse dumps are treated monthly and the sewers are dealt with annually. Infestation in the sewers is almost negligible.

Following the retirement of the Council's Rodent Operator, a private Contractor is now employed to deal with infestation generally. A free service is given when infestation occurs in private dwellings and shops.

PETROLEUM (REGULATIONS) ACT, 1928 AND 1936

Under the above Acts 55 licences were issued for the storage of Petroleum Spirit and 1 for the storage of Calcium Carbide.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

Slaughterhouses Act, 1958

Two slaughterhouses were licensed during 1968 and the number of animals killed during the year at the two slaughterhouses is as follows:-

2 cows, 1 calf, 412 other bovines, 653 sheep, 3108 pigs and 19 goats giving a total of 4195.

In order to inspect these animals a total of 642 visits was required to the two slaughterhouses.

Fifteen slaughtermen's licences were issued during 1968.

Condemnations include the following whole carcases:-

75 pigs and 1 sheep - total 76 which, together with a quantity of offal and parts of carcases brings the total weight of meat and offal condemned up to 4 tons 14 cwts. 3 qrts. 26 lbs.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned
from 1st January, 1968 to 31st December, 1968

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	412	2	1	653	3108	-
Number inspected	412	2	1	653	3108	-
All diseases except Tuberculosis						
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	1	75	-
Carcases of which some part of organ was condemned	43	1	-	-	31	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis	10.4	50.0	-	0.15	3.09	-
Tuberculosis Only						
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	14	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	0.45	-
Cysticeroosis						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	2	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	2	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

Food Hygiene

The Minister requests that reports of previous years should be amplified to include the following information:-

(1) the number, if available, of food premises in the area by type of business:

Green grocery	3
Grocery	29
Butchers	16
Fish shops	11
Bakehouses	3
Confectionery	18
Cafes and restaurants	6
Ice cream manufacturer	1
	87

In addition, there are some 41 licensed premises including clubs.

(2) the number of food premises by type registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, or under Local Acts:-

Premises registered for the sale of ice cream	34
Premises registered for the preparation of meat pies and sausages	17
Premises registered for the sale of fish and chips	11

(3) the number of inspections of registered food premises with informative comment as necessary:-

(Inspections of registered food premises and other food shops generally (including slaughterhouses) are shown on page 8.)

(4) any new educational activity and the progress of established educational activity:-

New posters are regularly exhibited relating to food hygiene and other matters.

(5) the methods of disposal of condemned food:-

Where condemnation certificates are issued for tinned food etc. the food is collected and disposed of by the Council. Condemned meat at the slaughterhouses is collected by Contractors and processed.

(6) where special examination of a stock or of a consignment of food has been necessary, the total quantity condemned:-

Two large quantities of frozen food were condemned following breakdown in two shop refrigerators.

(7) reference to the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947 - 1952:-

11 samples of ice cream were taken during the year and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service, Cambridge. All 11 samples were classified Grade I.

At the end of the year 34 shops were registered for the sale of ice cream. There is one manufacturer in the area.

(8) reference to the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1960:-

130 visits and re-visits were made to food premises during 1968 for compliance with the above Regulations. In addition 642 visits were paid to the local slaughterhouses.

/(9)

Food Hygiene (Contd.)

(9) details of food premises subject to the Regulations:-

(i)	Number of premises	125
(ii)	Number of premises fitted to comply with Regulation 16 (wash-basin)	125
(iii)	Number of premises to which Regulation 19 applies (sinks)	125
(iv)	Number of premises fitted to comply with Regulation 19	125

The Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations, 1966

The above Regulations which became operative on the 1st January, 1967 lay down requirements as to food hygiene in respect of markets, stalls and delivery vehicles. In this respect regular visits are paid to the stalls on the market and ten mobile vans were inspected. Where contraventions on mobile vans are found the van owner is informed and also the Public Health Department in whose area the van is stationed and this system appears to work very well in practice.

POULTRY

There is one small poultry processing business where complete evisceration takes place and regular visits are paid to the premises although slaughtering only takes place very occasionally, some 130 birds being dealt with in 12 months. Weekly visits are paid to the local market where poultry carcases are sold, the carcases in this case having been 'plucked' but not eviscerated. A joint visit is paid with an inspector from the Food and Drugs Authority to the local Christmas poultry sales when five poultry carcases and two turkey carcases were taken out of sale.

In conclusion I should like to take the opportunity of thanking the Members of the Council and my colleagues on the Staff for their helpful co-operation, and particularly Mr. Littler, the Clerk of the Council, for his valuable advice and assistance.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. BURTON,

Public Health Inspector.

1st September, 1969.